

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-14 are pending. In the present Amendment, claim 1 is amended. New claims 15-20 are added. No new matter is added.

Examiner's Interview

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time and consideration during the Interview held on December 4, 2008. During the Interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed proposed amended claim 1 and proposed new claims 15-16 and 20 and the teachings of the prior art, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,947,508 ("Bauer") and 4,050,832 ("Stratton"). As discussed below in more detail, Applicants' representative provided arguments as to why the cited prior art does not teach or suggest the subject matter of the claims. While the Examiner agreed that the claims appear to overcome Bauer and Stratton, the Examiner felt that further searching and consideration would be required. Agreement was not reached on the claims.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bauer. The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6 and 9-10 as being anticipated by Stratton. Reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 1

Amended independent Claim 1 defines a wiper arm (10) for a windshield wiper device for wiping a windshield, the wiper arm including at least one fastening part (12) for fastening the wiper arm (10) to the windshield wiper device, one articulated part (16), which is connected in an articulated manner to the fastening part (12) so as to be moveable in a first plane, one spring element (34), which is arranged between the fastening part (12) and the articulated part (16) and is provided with a tension spring (32) that is stressed during a relative movement between the fastening part (12) and the articulated part (16), and one fastening means (30) connecting the tension spring (32) to the fastening part (12). Claim 1 specifies that the fastening means (30) has a U-shaped bend (36) in a second plane that is perpendicular to the first plane, that the fastening part (12) has a surface facing the windshield and a width parallel to the windshield, the fastening part defining a transverse slot (28) extending from the surface and extending through the entire

width of the fastening part (12), and that the fastening means (30) has a connecting end opposite the bend (36), the connecting end being received in the transverse slot (28) to connect the fastening means (30) to the fastening part (12).

As mentioned above, the Examiner indicated that amended claim 1 appears to overcome Bauer and Stratton. Specifically, as discussed during the Interview, Bauer and Stratton, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, among other things, a wiper arm including a fastening part defining a transverse slot extending from a surface facing the windshield and extending through the entire width of the fastening part, and fastening means having a connecting end received in the transverse slot to connect the fastening means to the fastening part. For at least this independent reason, Applicants respectfully submit that Bauer and Stratton, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable.

Dependent claims 2-19 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same and other independent reasons. In addition, the additional subject matter defined by the dependent claims, such as, for example, as discussed during the Interview, dependent claims 15-16, provides separate, independent bases for allowance.

Dependent claim 15 specifies that the fastening part (12) has one end defining an articulation axis for the articulating part (16) and an opposite end, and that the transverse slot (28) has an opening on the surface, the opening being on the surface between the articulation axis and the opposite end, the transverse slot (28) being inclined from the opening toward the articulation axis. As discussed during the Interview, Bauer and Stratton, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the additional subject matter defined by dependent claim 15.

Dependent claim 16 specifies that the fastening means (30) has an intermediate part between the bend (38) and the connecting end, the connecting end including a rod portion having rod ends extending outwardly from the intermediate part, the rod portion being received in the transverse slot (28) through the opening to connect the fastening means (30) to the fastening part (12). As discussed during the Interview, Bauer and Stratton, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the additional subject matter defined by dependent claim 16.

New Independent Claim 20

New independent claim 20 defines a wiper arm (10) for a windshield wiper device for wiping a windshield, the wiper arm including a fastening part (12) for fastening the wiper arm (10) to the windshield wiper device, an articulated part (16), which is connected in an articulated manner to the fastening part (12) so as to be moveable about an articulation axis in a first plane, a spring element (34), which is arranged between the fastening part (12) and the articulated part (16) and is provided with a tension spring (32) that is stressed during a relative movement between the fastening part (12) and the articulated part (16), and fastening means (30) connecting the tension spring (32) to the fastening part (12). Claim 20 specifies that the fastening means (30) has one end connected to the spring (32), an intermediate part, an opposite end connected to the fastening part (12), the opposite end including a rod portion having rod ends extending outwardly from the intermediate part, and that the fastening part (12) has one end defining an articulation axis for the articulating part (16) and an opposite end, the fastening part (12) also having a surface facing the windshield and a width parallel to the windshield, the fastening part defining a transverse slot (28) extending from an opening on the surface and extending through the entire width of the fastening part (12), the opening being on the surface between the articulation axis and the opposite end, the transverse slot (28) being inclined from the opening toward the articulation axis, the rod portion being received in the transverse slot (28) through the opening to connect the fastening means (30) to the fastening part (12), the rod portion extending parallel to the articulation axis.

As mentioned above, during the Interview, the Examiner indicated that new claim 20 appears to overcome Bauer and Stratton. Specifically, as discussed during the Interview, Bauer and Stratton, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, among other things, a wiper arm including a fastening part defining a transverse slot extending from an opening on the surface and extending through the entire width of the fastening part, the opening being on the surface between the articulation axis and the opposite end. Also, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest such a transverse slot being inclined from the opening toward the articulation axis. In addition, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest fastening means having an end connected to the fastening part, the end including a rod portion having rod ends extending outwardly from the intermediate part, the rod portion being received in the transverse slot through the opening to connect the fastening means to the fastening part. For at least these independent reasons,

Applicants respectfully submit that Bauer and Stratton, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by new independent claim 20. Accordingly, claim 20 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 1-20.

If additional consultation will further prosecution, the undersigned is available during normal business hours at the below-identified telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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